

Appl. No. : 09/699,798
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, 12-13, 15, 17-18, 20, 21, 23, 31, and 32, as indicated below. Please add new Claim 41.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing and presenting media files as a mixed-media presentation, the method comprising:

receiving a streaming media file;

receiving a static media file;

~~producing a streaming output from the streaming media file;~~

~~querying the streaming output for a time marker; and~~

~~associating the static media file with [[the]] a time marker and the streaming media file in an output file, wherein the time marker is stored outside the streaming media file after associating the static media file with the time marker and the streaming media file; and~~

after associating, providing the output file to a mixed-media presentation system, wherein the mixed-media presentation system accesses the output file to dynamically synchronize the static media file with the streaming media file while presenting the mixed-media presentation on a display device.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an input that designates a point in the streaming output media file to which the static media file is to be synchronized.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the time marker indicates a quantity of time that has elapsed.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the quantity of time is measured between a first point in time, relating to when the streaming output media file was started playing, and a second point in time, relating to when the user input was received.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the streaming output media file synchronized with one or more static media files based upon one or more associations in the output file.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the streaming media file is selected from the group consisting of video data files and audio data files.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein further comprising producing a streaming output from the streaming media file, wherein the streaming output is selected from the group consisting of streaming video and streaming audio.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the static media file is selected from the group consisting of graphic data files, text data files, and non-streaming animation files.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored therein one or more sequences of instructions for synchronizing media files for a mixed-media file presentation, the one or more sequences of instructions causing one or more processors to perform a number of acts, said acts comprising:

receiving a streaming media file;
receiving a static media file;
~~producing a streaming output from the streaming media file;~~
~~querying the streaming output for at least one time marker upon receiving an input; and~~

associating the static media file with [[the]] a time marker and the streaming media file in an output file, wherein the time marker is stored outside of the streaming media file after associating the static media file with the time marker and the streaming media file; and

after associating, providing the output file to a mixed-media presentation system, wherein the mixed-media presentation system accesses the output file to dynamically synchronize the static media file with the streaming media file while presenting the mixed-media presentation on a display device.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, the method acts further comprising receiving an input that designates a point in the streaming output media file to which the static media file is to be synchronized.

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11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the time marker indicates a quantity of time that has elapsed.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the quantity of time is measured between a first point in time, relating to when the streaming ~~output was media file~~ started playing, and a second point in time, relating to when ~~[[the]] a~~ user input was received.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, the ~~method acts~~ further comprising displaying the streaming ~~output media file~~ synchronized with one or more static media files based upon one or more associations in the output file.

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the streaming media file is selected from the group consisting of video data files and audio data files.

15. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, ~~the acts further comprising producing a streaming output from the streaming media file~~, wherein the streaming output is selected from the group consisting of streaming video and streaming audio.

16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the static media file is selected from the group consisting of graphic data files, text data files, and non-streaming animation files.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing ~~and presenting~~ media files as a mixed-media presentation, ~~the method comprising:~~

~~receiving a streaming media file that comprises a series of frames, each frame having a unique address;~~

~~receiving a static media file;~~

~~producing a streaming output from the streaming media file;~~

~~querying the streaming output for a plurality of sync frames;~~

~~associating the static media file with the sync frames synchronization points related to the streaming media file and the static media file with content definition file time markers and the streaming media file in a content definition file; and~~

~~storing the unique address of each sync frame in the content definition file, wherein the content definition file is separate from the streaming media file after associating the static media file with the sync frames and the streaming media file; and~~

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presenting said mixed-media presentation on a display device, wherein the mixed-media presentation is synchronized without altering the streaming media file.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving an input that designates a point in the streaming ~~output media file~~ to which the static media file is to be synchronized.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising displaying the ~~streaming output of the streaming media file~~ synchronized with one or more static media files based upon the content definition file.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored therein one or more sequences of instructions for synchronizing media files, the one or more sequences of instructions causing one or more processors to perform a number of acts, said acts comprising:

~~receiving a streaming media file that comprises a series of frames, each frame having a unique address;~~

~~receiving a static media file;~~

~~producing a streaming output from the streaming media file;~~

~~querying the streaming output for a sync frame upon receiving an input; and~~

~~associating the static media file with the sync frame a synchronization point and the streaming media file in an output file, wherein the unique address of the sync frame is stored in a marker file distinct from the streaming media file after associating the static media file with the sync frame and the streaming media file; and~~

~~after associating, providing the output file to a mixed-media presentation system, wherein the mixed-media presentation system employs the output file to dynamically synchronize the static media file with the streaming media file while presenting a mixed-media presentation on a display device.~~

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 21, the ~~method acts~~ further comprising identifying the ~~sync frame synchronization point~~ that comprises a frame of the streaming media file corresponding to ~~[[the]] a point in the streaming output media file~~ designated by ~~[[the]] a user input.~~

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24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A computer system for synchronizing and presenting media files of a mixed-media presentation, comprising:

a computer that comprises:

a processor;

a main memory communicatively coupled to the processor; and

a storage device communicatively coupled to the processor;

a database running on the computer from the main memory, the database comprising:

one or more data structures relating to one or more streaming media files stored in the storage device; and

one or more data structures relating to one or more static media files stored in the storage device; and

an application program coupled to the database and configured to support a user, the application program configured to:

~~produce a streaming output from a first streaming media file selected from the one or more streaming media files;~~

~~query the first streaming media file for a synchronization point upon receiving an input;~~

~~associate, in a marker file, a [[the]] static media file selected from the one or more static media files with [[the]] a synchronization point and [[the]] a streaming media file selected from the one or more streaming media files in a content definition file; and~~

~~store storing a data set about the synchronization point in a the marker file, wherein the marker file is distinct from the streaming media file after the association of the static media file with the synchronization point and the streaming media file; and~~

~~provide the marker file to a mixed-media file presentation system after associating the static media file with the synchronization point and the streaming media file, wherein the mixed-media file presentation system accesses the marker file to dynamically synchronize presentation of the static media file with presentation of the streaming media file while presenting the mixed-media presentation on a display device.~~

32. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting a computer-based synchronized mixed-media presentation, comprising:

receiving at least one static media file and at least one streaming media file;
producing at least one synchronization point upon receiving an input by a user;
creating a content definition file to associate the static media file with the streaming media file using the at least one synchronization point, wherein the content definition file includes ~~[[the]]~~ time markers and an access path for the streaming media file; and

~~using the content definition file to present a presentation;~~
~~providing the content definition file to a mixed-media presentation system, wherein the mixed-media presentation system accesses the content definition file to dynamically synchronize the static media file with the streaming media file while presenting a mixed-media presentation on a display device.~~

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein producing the at least one synchronization point comprises producing a plurality of time markers.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein producing the at least one synchronization point comprises producing a plurality of sync frame addresses.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the presentation is on a local medium.

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36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the presentation is on a network server.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein creating a content definition file comprises creating an extensible mark-up language (XML) file.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein creating the XML file comprises:

- providing an address of the streaming media file;
- providing access to the static media file; and
- providing the synchronization points to coordinate displaying the static media file with the streaming media file.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein receiving at least one streaming media file comprises receiving a streaming media file in a plurality of computer-readable formats.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein receiving at least one static media file comprises receiving a static media file in a plurality of computer-readable formats.

41. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising storing the streaming media file in a variety of streaming media formats that are supported on a variety of user platforms, wherein the content definition file allows the mixed-media presentation system to dynamically synchronize the static media file with any of the stored streaming formats of the streaming media file.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

Proposed Amendments to independent claims 1,9,17, 21, 31, and 32 were provided.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Amendments to Claims 1 and 17 were discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patent No. 6, 665,835 to Gutfreund, et al.

Proposed Amendments

Amendments were discussed that more clearly point out the use of the output file by the mixed-media presentation system to dynamically synchronize a streaming media file and a static media file while a mixed-media presentation is being presented on a display device.

Amendments were also discussed that clarify the time marker (synchronization point), and the fact that the media files of the mixed-media presentation system are synchronized without altering the streaming media file.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

The uses of the several terms were discussed, including "time marker," "synchronization point," "mixed media file presentation system," and others.

Results of Interview

The Examiner stated that it appeared that: (1) the new claim amendments seem to overcome the rejections based on Gutfreund (pending a determination of any inconsistent embodiments that might affect claim interpretation) and (2) when a Response to the Office Action is filed, he will review the specification of the application again and perform a new search based on the current amendments to determine allowability.